



Chris Owens  
Director

OFW has posted the last of [three 2012 reports](#) related to the status of women in Louisville:

*The Status of Women in Louisville 2012*

*\*Through the Eyes of Homeless Women*

*\*Jefferson County Intimate Partner Fatalities 30 Incidents from 2007-2012.*

*\* These reports were based upon the work of OFW interns, Autumn Brents and Keely McWhorter.*

Other resources with more information of interest to women:

- [Kentucky Women's Health Registry](#)
- [Kentucky Youth Advocates](#)
- [Metropolitan Housing Coalition](#)
- [BEST—Basic Economic Security Tables](#)

## Through the Eyes of Homeless Women: Why We Must Not Close Our Eyes

The report on interviews of homeless women conducted at the annual Homeless Connect/Stand Down is now posted on the OFW website. Approximately 20% of those who attend Homeless Connect are women. We are grateful to the women willing to share their time and information. It is their openness which allowed OFW to collect information and offer a brief look through the eyes of homeless women in our community.

On December 21, 2012, Wayside Christian Mission held their annual Memorial for Homeless Persons. By their count, forty-four homeless persons died in Jefferson County this year. Jefferson County Public Schools serve almost 10,000 children who are homeless at some time during the year. This is the equivalent of 2-3 students in every classroom. SAMHSA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration), provides insight into the plight of homeless women with [statistics like these](#):

- Over 92% of homeless women have experience severe physical and/or sexual abuse in their lifetime.
- About 66% of homeless mothers have histories of domestic violence.

### Housing makes a difference.

Mental health issues such as substance abuse and PTSD are 2-3 times greater for homeless mothers than for women in low-income housing.

### The Future for Female Military Veterans?

In our community 7.4% of veterans living in Louisville are female. Minority female veterans outnumber white female veterans three to one.

Military veterans make up a large portion of the homeless population and homeless female veterans are a growing subset of that population. According to a [2011 article](#), the increasing number of women who serve in the military is leading to an increased number who are later homeless. Female veterans living in poverty are three times as likely to become homeless as their male counterparts. The statistics for minority female veterans are even more grim.

Adding to the need for female veteran services is the high incident of "[military sexual trauma](#)." Twenty-two percent of female veterans seeking health care from the Veterans Administration [report being victims of sexual trauma](#) while in the military.

## Comparison of 30 Fatal Domestic Violence Incidents: 2007-2012

For this project, 30 Jefferson County domestic violence fatality incidents were selected and compared for commonalities, trends, and indicators. Known circumstances prior to fatalities were compared to [Jacqueline Campbell's lethality risk assessment](#). The 30 incidents represent approximately 25% of domestic violence fatality incidents during the period from 2007-2012.

The project was constrained by using only sources available to the public such as local news articles. Results were compared to national reports by the federal Bureau of Justice and the [Louisville Metro Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee's report](#) for 2009-2010.

Unfortunately, domestic violence cases exposed in media sources tend to be chosen because of their ability to draw an audience, rather than at random. Due to this fact, cases used in this research may be biased. However, information collected on each inci-

dents was verified by at least three sources to confirm the information used provided an accurate portrayal.

### Sample of Findings:

- In 88% of the incidents the primary victim was killed by the perpetrator.
- 87% of primary victims were female
- 83% of the fatal incidents took place at home.
- In 77% of the incidents, the couple was either married or living together.
- 43% of the perpetrators were 40-49 years old.
- 37% of victims were 20-29 years old.
- 33.3% of the couples had children in common.
- 23% of incidents ended by perpetrator suicide.
- 17% of the couples had children from another relationship.
- In 1 incident the perpetrator was killed by the primary victim.

The **Louisville Metro Office for Women** (OFW) uses policy and advocacy to improve the status of women in the Louisville Metro area. OFW is a Policy, Advocacy & Community Outreach office within the Louisville Metro Department of Community Services and Revitalization. OFW Committee involvement examines women's needs, system responses and assists in development of recommendations. The Office serves as an information and resource hub, maximizing resources through community education & partnerships, communication, collaboration, interns/volunteers and technology.



*Best Wishes  
for a  
Happy New Year!*



**OFW Community  
Calendar**

[OFW Louisville on  
Facebook](#)

**STALKING:  
KNOW IT. NAME IT.  
STOP IT.**

**JANUARY 2013**

[StalkingAwarenessMonth.org](http://StalkingAwarenessMonth.org)

January is National Stalking Awareness Month. [Take the Quiz](#) to see what you know about stalking.

**Community Needs  
Assessment**

Each year, Louisville Metro Community Action Partnership (LMCAP) issues a Community Needs Assessment Survey to gather important input from community members about the causes and conditions of poverty. Your response is important to us! The feedback will help with the planning of LMCAP's programs and services for next year. All responses are due by January 31, 2013. [Please share this link](#) with your clients, customers and/or members of your organization.

**Community Calendar News**

**Unity In The Community** hosted by  
Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission  
"Putting The Pieces Together"  
**January 25, 2013—9am-12:15pm**

**REGISTER [ONLINE](#)**

**For More Information:**

PH: (502) 574-3631 TDD: (502) 574-4332  
FAX: (502) 574-1216 Email: [hrc@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:hrc@louisvilleky.gov)

U of L PEACC Program: **MAKE THE EARTH MOVE!**  
Auditions for 2013 The Vagina Monologues Join a  
global activist movement to end violence against  
women and girls right in your own community by  
participating in The Vagina Monologues perform-  
ances this year during U of L's V-Day week. Come

audition anytime Wednesday, **January 9th or  
Thursday, January 10th from 7-9:00pm** in room  
W312 of the Student Activities Center on U of L's  
campus. The performance dates for this show are  
**February 14, 15, and 16th**. For more information  
please call the PEACC Program at (502) 852-2663

**Simple Steps for Starting Your Business**  
Louisville SCORE/Louisville SBDC  
**Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 6:00 PM - Monday,**

**February 4, 2013 at 9:00 PM** (Louisville, KY  
<http://simplestepsjan2013.eventbrite.com/>

Tune in, watch, and listen to WHAS-TV on **Tues-  
day, January 8th at 12:00pm** as the UofL  
Women's Center and their Women 4 Women

Student Group discuss the upcoming Human  
Trafficking Awareness Conference on **January  
16th**.

**(BPW) Business Professional Women's  
Monthly Luncheon.** Bristol on Main Street  
Downtown Louisville- 614 West Main Street  
**Wednesday, January 09, 2013 11:30 AM-  
1:00 PM.** Guest Speaker: Deb Moessner, Presi-  
dent and General Manager of Anthem Blue  
Cross and Blue Shield in Kentucky since 2006.

Moessner is past chairwoman of the Kentucky  
Chamber of Commerce; serves on boards of  
numerous non-profit and civic organizations,  
including Women 4 Women, Fund for the Arts,  
Leadership Louisville, Leadership KY Founda-  
tion, & Community Foundation of Louisville.

**FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED:** [See why ABC's  
20/20 chose Maryhurst](#) as a best practice  
model for kids in foster care.

**Foster Parents NEEDED!**  
Free training/certification  
Compensation provided

**Did you know** there are nearly 6800 KY chil-  
dren in foster care? Maryhurst goal is to ensure  
that all of our children have a safe and loving  
place to live. To achieve this goal we need  
dedicated foster parents. We would like for  
you to help us!

24 hour support provided by Master's-level  
therapists Open to all lifestyles Single or Mar-  
ried KY residents only Serving boys and girls  
ages birth to 21

Contact [Maryhurst](#) for more information :  
502-499-1570

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